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REVOLUTIONARY ARMY ORDERS
For the Main Army under Washington. 1778-1779

(From Originals in the Collection of the Virginia Historical Society.)

(CONTINUED.)

Head Quarters June 1 1778.

Brigadier to morrow Muhlenburg.

F. O. Colo. Wigglesworth & Major Church.

Brigade Major Minnis.

Inspector from Learnard's Brig'e.

Colonel Coatland* is appointed to tarry in Camp to superintend the Sick left on the Ground when the Army moves & to send on the recovered men properly Officered to Join their respective Corps & Major Green will repair to the Yellow Springs and the Hospitals near Camp and Superintend the Sick their. They will apply to morrow at the Orderly Office for written Orders. The following will be observed as a standing Model for the Order of March—wether for the whole Army or Divisions, Brigades or Battilions—it may happen that some Chainge may be necessary in Strength or number of the advance Rear & flank Guards, and in their respective distances to each other and to the main body &c. which are to be determined according to the perticular Circumstance which the Officer Commanding will Judge of—But Gen'l principals & Rules here layed down are in all Cases to be practised only with such variations in appyling them as different Situations may requir—When a Battilion Receives orders to march each Company forms before its own Quarters, the Captains haveing inspected the Arms & accountrements conducts them to the Regimental Parade where the field Officers inspects the whole—forms each Battilion into 8 Platoons for Charging agreeable to the instructions given and march by Platoons to their Rendezvous. When only one Battilion marches the Colonel Orders out one advance and Rear Guard each Consisting of a Sub 3 N. C. Officers, 1 Drumer & 20 privates—A Brigade Composed of several Battilions has an advance and

* Probably Col. Philip Van Cortland of the 2nd New York regiment.

Rear Guard each Consisting of 1 Capt. 2 Subs 6 N. C. Officers & 40 or 50 privates—where several Brigades march together each Brigade furnishes a proportionable number for advance and Rear Guards—when the whole Army marches the new Guard of the Day forms the advance Guard & the Old Guard forms the Rear Guard—The new Guard being assembled on the parade the Brigadier of the Day forms them into a Battilion of 8 Platoons the Oldest field Officer of the day takes Command of it and Marches at the head of the Column—The Brigadier of the preceeding Day haveing assembled the Old Guards forms them in the same manner the eldest Field Officer takeing the Command and marching in the Rear of the Column—The advance Guard shoud be advanced from 50 to 200 paces in front of the Column—each advanced Guard shoud send forwards a Detachment to Serve as an advanced Guard to its self and that detachment shoud also send out a patrol in front each 100 paces in front of the other. Thus 1 Captain 2 Subs 6 N. C. Officers 1 Drumer & 50 Men will send out a non Commissioned Officer & 12 Men & that N. C. Officer will advance 4 Men in his front—and advance Guard of a Sub & 20 Men will advance 1 N. C. O. and 8 Men & the N. C. O. will advance 2 Men in his front—the Rear Guard will observe the same Rule in sending its detachments in the Rear as the advance Guards does in front—When a Brigade Devision or the Army marches by the Right its supposed the Enemy is on the left on the Contrary each Battilion will therefore send out on the flank exposed to the Enemy 1 Sub 2 N. C. O. & 16 Men as a flank Guard who will march in a platoon by files from the Right oposite the Center of the Battilion at the distance of 80 or 100 paces of the Column—when the Army marches in two Columns the Right Column has its flank Guard on its Right and the left Column on its left—when in one Column and the position of the Enemy uncertain Guards must be sent on both flanks the advance flank & Rear Guards must allways have their Bayonets fixed—when ever the Ground will permit the Battilion must march by Platoons during the March each Colo. must Stay before his Batt'n & each Capt. & Subs before their Platoons—the intervals between the Battilions & Platoons must be Strictly observed during the march—when their is a Creek or defile to pass the Brigadiers must stop till their

Brigade has passed & the Colonels till their Respective Battilions has passed—they will take Care that their men pass with as large a front and as quick as possible—the advand Guard haveing passed the defile shoud take such a Situation as to be able to see all around & shoud send out Patroles 500 Paces round. The head of the Columns halt before thay enter the defile to let the Platoons * * * at half distance & when half the Column has got thro it halts till the whole has passed & then Continues its march—when the Road will not permit to march by Platoons the march is to be made by Seconds of 4 in front in the following manner each Officer divides his Platoon into Sections for example a platoon of 16 files makes 4 Sections they will brake off by the Right or left and Continue the March each Section 2 paces distance from the other—if a platoon has 15 file the last Section will have 3 file—if the Platoon has only 14 the last will have 4 Men in the Rank—if a platoon 13 file the last will have 5 file—when marching in this Order by the Right the Officers Commanding platoons will be on the left of the 1st Section the Serjeant on the Right stays in his place & the Officers & N. C. Off. that was in the Rear will be on the Right flank if they march in this Order by the left the Comm'g Officer of the Platoon remains on the Right of the first Section and the others on the left flank so that by wheeling the Sections the Platoons will be formed & each Officer & N. C. Officers be in his place during the march, each officer must keep his platoon in Order the Officers & N. C. O. in the Rear must prevent the Soldiers from leaving their Ranks on any account—if the Soldiers have occasion for water the Officer must send a non Comm'd Officer with some men to fill their Canteens, and the N. C. Officer must bring them back to their Platoons immediately, the flank Guard will never suffer any N. C. O. or Soldier to pass them during the march & the Rear Guard will bring up all Straglers.

	S	S	C	P
Guard	—	1.	—	6.
3 days Command . . .	—	—	1.	3.
In Guards	—	—	1.	7.
Quarter Guard . . .	—	—	1.	6.
	—	—	—	—
	1.	1.	3.	22

Head Quarters Valley Forge June 2, 1778.

Brigadier Gen'l to morrow Poor.

F. O. Colonel Bowman & Lt. Col'l Buford.

Brigade Major Claybourn.

Inspector from Pattersons.

At a Gen'l Court Martial Colonel Chambers Presid't May 29, '78—Lt. Colonel Gray* of the 12 Pennsylvania Regiment Tryed for un Officer & un Gentlemanlike behaviour in entering into Private Contracts with the Soldiers of his Regiment for the deficiency of their Rations, by which means and other unwarrantable practices the Soldiers are defrauded of a Considerable Sum of Money found Guilty of the Charges exhibited against him, being a breach of 21 Article 14 Section of the Art'o of War and Sentanced to be Cashiered, and that agreeable to the 22 Article 14 Section of the Articles of War his Name Place of abode and punishment be published in the News Papers and in and about Camp and of that perticular State from whence he came or in which he usually Resided—His Excellency the Commander in Chief approves the Sentance and orders it to take place.

At the same Court Lt. Webb† of the 7 Virginia Regiment Tryed for disobedience of Orders for going on duty in a hunting Shirt after Confesing he had a Coat and being Desired if he had no regard for his own appearance to have some for the Credit of his Regiment and therefore not to appear in so un-Officer like manner found Guilty & Sentanced to be reprimanded by the Commanding Officer of the Regiment to which he belongs in presence of the Officers of the Regiment—The General approves the Sentance and Orders it to be put in execution to morrow morning at Roll Call.

B. O. June 2. A Brigade Court Martial Major Dickinson

*Neigal Gray, commissioned Lieutenant Colonel 12th Pennsylvania, Oct. 5, 1776.

†Heitman has no Webb as lieutenant in the 7th Virginia at this time. He gives Isaac Webb, lieutenant 2nd Virginia until Sept. 14, 1778, and who served until January, 1780. At this date John Webb was major of the 7th Virginia.

President is to Set to morrow morning at 10 O'Clock at the Presidents Quarters for the Tryal of all the Prisoners in the Brigade.

	C	S	S	C	P
Detail for Guard .	-	-	1.	1.	6
In Guards .	-	-	-	1.	8
Quarter Guards .	-	-	-	1.	6
Court Martial .	2.	2.	-	-	-
	—	—	—	—	—
	2.	2.	1.	3.	20

Head Quarters June 3, 1778.

Brigadier General to morrow Varnom.

F. O. Lt. Colonel Regnair & Major Porter.

Brigade Major McCormack.

Inspector from Weedons.

Thomas Shanks on full Conviction of his being a Spy in the Service of the Enemy before a Board of General Officers held Yesterday by Order of the Commander in Chief is Judged worthy of Death he is therefore to be hanged to morrow morning at Guard Mounting at some Convenient Place near the Grand Parade.

At a General Court Martial June 1 1778 Colonel Chambers President, Lt. Toomy* of Colon'l Gests Reg't detached to the 3rd Maryland Regiment Tried for disobediance of Orders found Guilty and Sentanced to be Repremanded by the Commanding Officer of the Regiment to which he belongs in presence of the Officers of the Brigade. The Commander in Chief approves the Sentence and Orders it to take place to morrow morning at Roll Call. Officers for Detachment Lt. Colonel Farmer & Major Murphey.

[This concludes the orders in this section of the book; but the publication of the others will follow].

*John Toomy of Maryland.